

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0115

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (INOUE, DANIEL)

SUBJ: CODEL INOUE - JERUSALEM ASPECTS OF VISIT

1. EMBASSY WILL BE REPORTING INOUE VISIT BUT DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE PARTY'S STATE IN JERUSALEM.

2. DURING SUNDAY (JAN. 26) "FREE TIME," SENATOR INOUE AND SOME OF MEMBERS OF PARTY TOURED TOURIST SITES IN OLD CITY. GUIDE FOR MOST OF TOUR WAS FRANCISCAN PRIEST (FATHER GODFREY) WHO FREQUENTLY ESCORTS AMERICAN VIP'S. ISRAELI SECURITY MEN, JUNIOR MFA STAFFER RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND AN ARAB ON MUNICIPALITY STAFF (JARALLAH) ACCOMPANIED PARTY, TOGETHER WITH CONGEN CONTROL OFFICER SINDELAR. WHEN FARTHER GODFREY WAS OBLIGED TO RETURN TO HIS CHURCH, JARALLAH TOOK OVER FUNCTION OFGUIDE. SENATOR INOUE QUICKLY BECAME EXASPERATED WITH HIS THOROUGH-GOING ISRAELI PROPAGANDA LINE, SUCH AS STATEMENT THAT EXCAVATION WORK POSED NO PROBLEMS FOR MOSLEM BUILDINGS IN HARAM AREA. INOUE COMPLAINED TO SINDELAR, REFERRING TO JARALLAH AS ARAB "UNCLE TOM", AND LATER TO MFA CONTROL OFFICER.

3. DURING SAME PERIOD, SENATOR MATHIAS, HIS AIDE ROSSITER AND LUDWICK OF GAO VISITED ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG AT TEMPLE MOUNT AND BUILDINGS INSIDE MOSQUE AREA AFFECTED BY ISRAELI TUNNELING. PARTY WAS ESCORTED TO ISRAELI DIG BY MFA CONTROL OFFICER, AND EXCAVATION WAS EXPLAINED BY ARCHEOLOGIST PROFESSOR MAZAR. MFA OCCUPIED

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TERRITORY LIAISON OFFICER ARIEL AND EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER HIRSCH

ALSO ACCOMPANIED. CONSUL GENERAL JOINED GROUP AT END OF THIS VISIT AND ESCORTED THEM MINUS ISRAELIS TO MOSQUE AREA, WHERE THEY WERE SHOWN AL-AQSA MOSQUE RECONSTRUCTION AND OLD MOSLEM BUILDINGS AFFECTED BY ISRAELI TUNNELING. SENIOR MOSQUE ENGINEER DAKKAK WAS GUIDE. EARLIER IN MORNING CONSUL GENERAL HAD DISCUSSED WITH SENATOR AND ROSSITER PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ISRAELI OFFICIALS GOING ALONG ON VISIT WITHIN MOSQUE AREA. ROSSITER ASKED MFA CONTROL OFFICER TO BREAK AWAY AT THIS POINT, SINCE SENATOR WISHED TO HAVE FRANK EXPOSITION ON THE ISSUE FROM BOTH SIDES. ISRAELI OFFICIAL WAS NOT HAPPY BUT COMPLIED.

4. WILLIAM JORDAN, CHIEF MAJORITY STAFFER OF SUBCOMMITTEE, ASKED CONSUL GENERAL AND WEST BANK UNRWA DIRECTOR GRAHAM TO ARRANGE FOR YOUNG PALESTINIANS TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIM AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY, NOT INCLUDING SENATORS, EVENING OF JAN 24. CONGEN AND UNRWA ROUNDED UP REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF FIVE FROM WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM, INCLUDING ONE CAMP REFUGEE, AND DINNER APPARENTLY WORKED OUT TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH VISITORS AND PALESTINIANS. CONGEN CONTROL OFFICER SINDELAR WAS ASKED AT LAST MINUTE TO PARTICIPATE AND DID SO AS ONLY U.S. OFFICIAL PRESENT.

5. COMMENT: MOST OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATORS AND PARTY CONCERNED ARAB-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIPS, AND WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE PREDISPOSITION ON THEIR PART TO FIND FAULT WITH ISRAELIS. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO ISRAELI EFFORT TO KEEP THEM OFF WEST BANK AND UNWRA FACILITIES THERE, AND WE SENSED THEY REACTED NEGATIVELY TO WHAT THEY FELT WERE HEAVILY SLANTED ISRAELI PRESENTATIONS ON OCCASION. IT SEEMS TO US ISRAELIS MAKE MISTAKE, WITH CONGRESS IN PARTICULAR, IN TRYING TO TAILOR THESE VISITS TOO MUCH TO SUIT OWN PURPOSES. ESPECIALLY WHEN THIS RESULTS IN EXCLUDING FROM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN WHICH VISITORS HAVE EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST.
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